Seal of President Lincoln Drawer 29 Desk Supplies

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# Curios and Relics

## Desk Supplies

## Seal of President Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.04961

Publishers' Weekly, Sept. 18, 1920.

(Seal of Lincoln)

## *Rare Book at the Chicago Book Fair*

One of the features of the Marshall Field Book Fair next month will be the rare book exhibit which Mrs. Hahner arranged for with E. Byrne Hackett of the Brick Row Book Shops of New Haven and New York. Mr. Hackett is to send out there some of his choicest stock, including a set of his Shakespeare folios, first editions of Milton, Goldsmith, Johnson, manuscripts of Queen Elizabeth, Oliver Cromwell, Samuel Pepys, as well as the numerous manuscripts and rare personal items from the nineteenth century.

An item that will attract wide attention is the personal seal of Abraham Lincoln, the seal with which he marked all documents and which still bears the blackening of the matches and the soil of the wax. This seal is absolutely authenticated by documents from the two hands thru which it has passed from Lincoln. It is valued at $5,000.

Phila. Inquirer Mag. Feb. 12, 1968

As President, Lincoln used this seal. It's inscribed in brass mounted on a handle of carved ivory.

# $12,000 for Lincoln's Seal

LINCOLNIANA items are steadily increasing in price on the auction market. In New York recently 154 pieces of Lincolniana were sold by Justin G. Turner of Los Angeles for over $145,000. The articles ranged from Lincoln's Presidential Seal, auctioned for $12,000, to a derisively anti-Lincoln pamphlet, *The Lincoln Catechism Wherein the Eccentricities & Beauties of Despotism Are Fully Set Forth,* by J. F. Feeks, which went for $17.50. Items related only indirectly to Lincoln and never touched by him still brought top dollar at auction.

The collection included letters by Lincoln's wife and by his son, Robert, a five-dollar check written by Lincoln to his son, Tad (which sold for $5500) a white kid glove worn by the President to a White House reception, a handwritten account of Lincoln's last hours by the doctors who attended the President after he had been shot by John Wilkes Booth, and numerous first editions of biographies and photographic albums of Lincoln.

A letter to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs about one of its agents, the only letter known to have been penned by Lincoln on the day of his assassination, brought $6000. A page from his sum book, dated 1824 (when he was 15) sold for $8000. It contains his earliest known handwriting.

statement appears in *Lincoln Lore*, Number 1579, September, 1969, Lincoln's Law Offices In The Tinsley Building 1843-1852: "When one attempts to define the precise location of the Lincoln-Herndon law office during the entire period of the firm's existence, there is some confusion. This is due to the fact that several . . . issues of the *Illinois State Journal* are missing which would have shown a change, if they had moved, in their business card."

Even the Micro Photo Division of Bell & Howell, who have micro film of the *Illinois State Journal* from June 16, 1848, to December 30, 1865, (35 reels) available for sale, advises its prospective customers that missing from the files are the numbers from September 14, 1843, through December and June 20-30, 1855, and July 1-9, of the same year.

Editor's Note: For a more complete description of the files of the *Illinois State Journal*, consult the publication titled, "Newspapers in the Illinois State Historical Library," edited by William E. Keller, reprinted from *Illinois Libraries*, June, 1970, by the Illinois State Historical Library, page 543.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S SEAL
### (A Good Investment)

On October 25, 1967, Abraham Lincoln's Official Seal of the United States sold for $12,000. It was a part of the Justin G. Turner collection sold at the Charles Hamilton Auction (see catalogue No. 22) at the Waldorf Astoria. The seal was used by Lincoln while president.

The item is described as follows: "the seal ¾" in diameter and inscribed in brass, mounted on a carved ivory handle (age yellowed and with a few tiny cracks), bearing a circular design on its top. The overall height is about 3¼". Contained in a special folding case made by Atmore Beach of brown morocco with inner linings of beige moire silk, gilt stamped on spine, 'Abraham Lincoln's Presidential Seal,' and on front cover, 'Justin G. Turner Collection.'" The pre-sale estimated value of the relic was $2,000.

The seal had previously been sold by the Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc. on February 19-20, 1952, at the time of the disposition of the collection of the late Oliver R. Barrett, of Chicago, Illinois. The item listed as Number 284 on page 122 of the sale catalogue gives the following description: "Seal of the United States used by Abraham Lincoln while President, ivory handle with brass seal. Height 3¼ inches. With card inscribed: 'Seal used by Abraham Lincoln when President. W. H. Crook'. Accompanying is a printed invitation of Mr and Mrs Abraham Lincoln to 'Mrs. Goddard' in an envelope, with a wax impression of the above seal. The envelope is defective. Illustrated in Sandburg, *Lincoln Collector*, facing p. 145."

The Parke-Bernet Galleries, Inc. did not estimate the value of the various items offered for sale, which appears to be no longer the practice of most auction houses. The seal sold for $650.

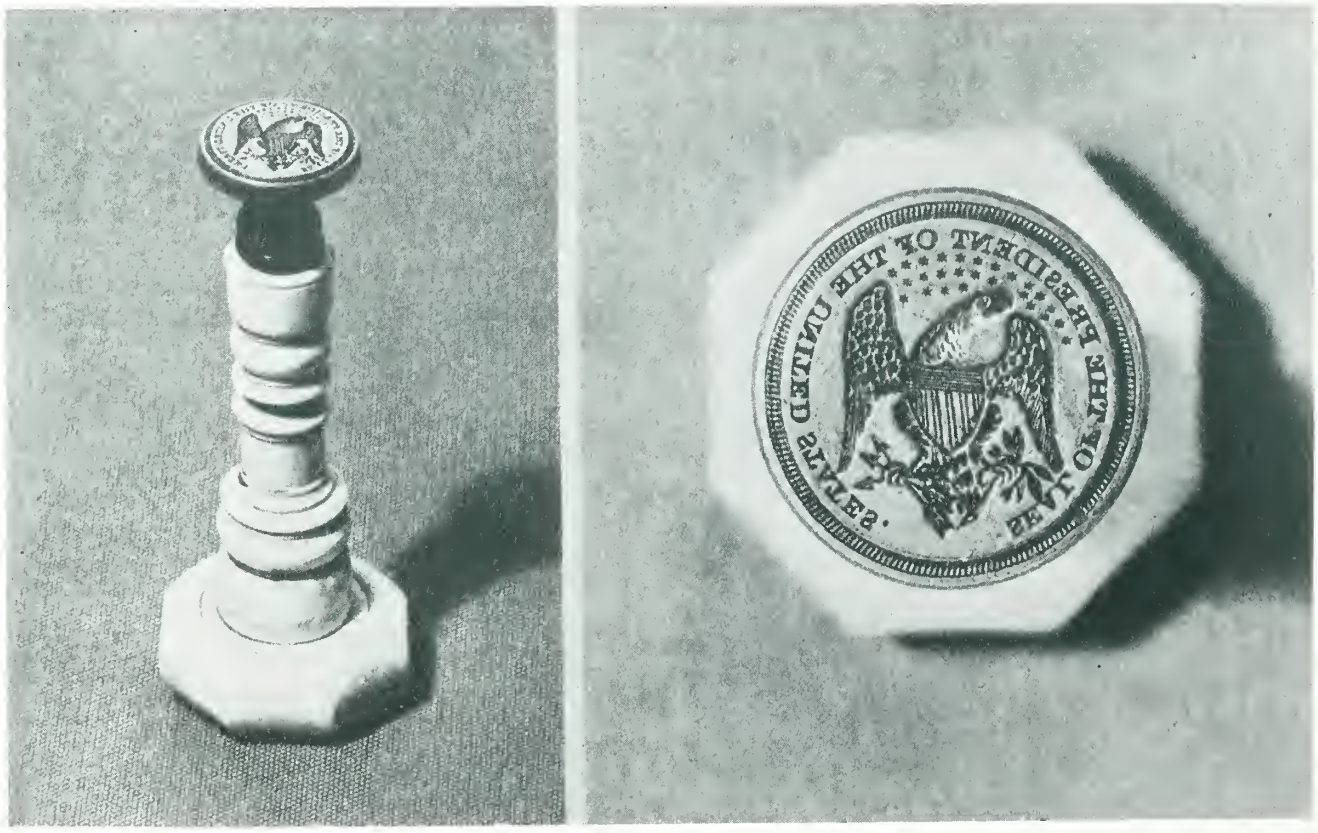
Thus the purchaser of the relic at the Barrett sale realized a 1746% gain on his investment. Perhaps the same can be said of the estate of the late Anna Thompson Dodge, who sold through Christie's on June 24, 1971, a French 18th century writing table for $415,800.

## Mrs. Lincoln Among The Sick And Wounded

Among the many ladies who visit our sick soldiers with cheerful words and offices, none are more indefatigable than Mrs. Lincoln. She, yesterday, visited the Odd Fellows Hall Hospital, Navy Yard, much to the gratification of the sufferers there, and kindly administered to their wants in various ways — bestowing gifts, kind words and, among others, Mrs. Lincoln visited the bedside of one old soldier, over sixty years of age, who had expressed a desire to see her. After some conversation, she bestowed upon the old soldier a handsome donation. Her visit will long be remembered by the invalids.

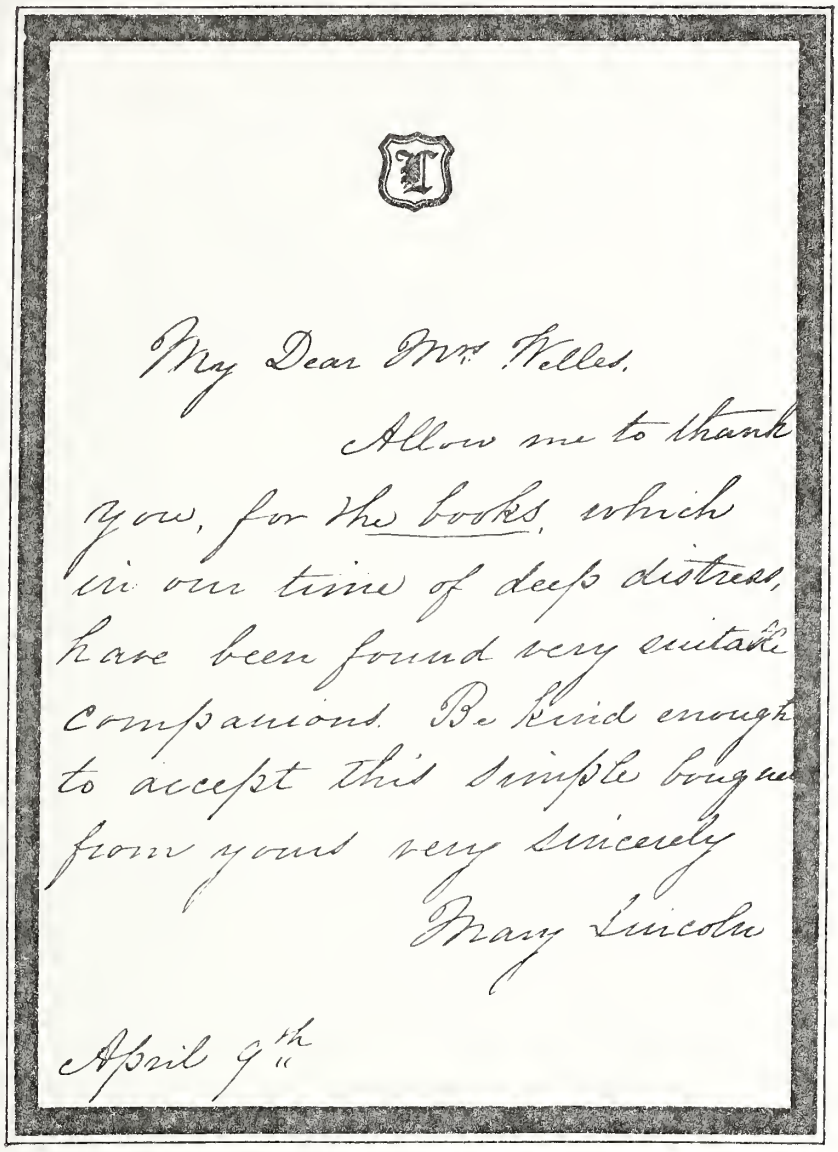
*Washington Star*
August 29, 1862

Note: On August 12, 1862, Mrs. Lincoln received from a Boston merchant a donation of $1,000 for relief work in military hospitals. On August 16, 1862, a request was made of Hiram Barney to buy $200 worth of lemons and $100 worth of oranges for Mrs. Lincoln to distribute to hospitals, *Lincoln Day By Day - A Chronology* 1809-1865, Volume III: 1861-1865, pages 133-134.



*From the Lincoln National Life Foundation*

**Two different views of Lincoln's official seal which, if price is an index, must be one of the most valuable Lincoln relics in existence today.**



My Dear Mrs. Welles.

Allow me to thank you, for the books, which in our time of deep distress, have been found very suitable companions. Be kind enough to accept this simple bouquet from yours very sincerely

Mary Lincoln

April 9th

Item 77.

Xerox placed in file 11-3-82

69 [LINCOLN, A.] Bust photograph by H. F. Warren, "Taken on the Balcony at The White House, March 6, 1865." Measures 8¼" by 6"; on larger, trimmed mount. Ostendorf O-112. $125.00

70 [LINCOLN, A.] Group of six carte-de-visite pictures. Three are bust photographs, one with D. Appleton, N.Y. imprint. Two are copies of family scenes, and one presents Washington embracing Lincoln. Minor wear and defects. $100.00

71 [LINCOLN, A.] Printed "Order of Procession," 1 page, 8vo, Washington, April, 1865. Listing of the escorts for Lincoln's funeral procession, military and civil, government officials and private groups; with orders for the firing of guns, wearing of mourning badges, etc. In especially fine condition. $75.00

11-3-82

72 [LINCOLN, A.] Heavy dark red wax impression of Lincoln's Presidential Seal. Attached to signed certification of authenticity by Charles Hamilton, autograph dealer, January, 1968. $25.00

73 LINCOLN, MARY TODD (1818-1882). Wife of President Abraham Lincoln. Autograph Letter Signed as First Lady, "Mrs. Lincoln," 1 page, 8vo, Executive Mansion (holograph), 16 December 1864. To Col. "Hardee" [James A. Hardie.] Ink blur on one word. Minor wear. $1,250.00

Request on behalf of R. E. Parker, Jr. for a post suttlership at "...Fairfax Seminary, or Fort Delaware, or any other Post..." She writes that Parker served three years in the 26th Penn Volunteers and has been honorably discharged.

Published in Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters. Justin G. Turner and Linda Levitt Turner, editors. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1972.

11-3-82

74 LINCOLN, MARY TODD. Autograph Letter Signed "Mary Lincoln," 3 full pages, 8vo, Barnum's Hotel, (Baltimore), 27 September (1868). To Mrs. Eliza Slataper. $1,500.00

"Did I tell you that on my arrival at Baltimore, I found two telegrams, urging me to proceed immediately to Senator Harlan's in Washington. On our arrival at the depot there -- I found Robert, Mary & Senator Harlan in their carriages...I did not look around me in W[ashington]--the feeling of being there, did not oppress me as much as I supposed it would--Yet I felt the after effects, on my mind, when I returned to Baltimore. On Friday...I went to dinner & after seating myself at a table near the door, I found my head becoming dizzy & everything appeared black before me...whilst attempting to rise, found myself sinking to the floor--A very distingué looking gentleman-- gave me his arm and led me to my room door...."

Published in Mary Todd Lincoln: Her Life and Letters.

Black bordered stationery. Minor marginal splits.

With A.L.S. of Mrs. Slataper's son, Denis; P.M.A., Chester, 7 October 1868; to his mother; mentions Mrs. Lincoln and Tad.

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# Lincoln Library Acquires Significant Collection Of Lincoln Artifacts

Jun 26th, 2007

Original beaver fur stove pipe hat belonging to Lincoln. Brim shows finger mark wears in the fur where he would have held the brim to "tip his hat."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.:The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has acquired the Taper collection of more than 1,500 artifacts, manuscripts and artworks that span Lincoln's entire life and provide insight into the forces that shaped the man who helped shape the American nation. The collection is celebrated for its holdings, which shed light on Lincoln's dramatic personal life and his relationships with his wife and children, friends, colleagues and even his enemies and detractors.

The newly acquired objects will be seen in museum exhibits beginning July 3, with a small exhibition of items in the museum's galleries. The Lincoln Library and Museum is also working to develop traveling exhibitions featuring key documents from the Taper collection. The Treasures Gallery, a designated exhibition

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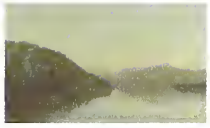
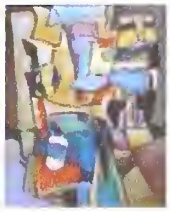


Questroyal Fine Art



Pennsylvania Art Conservatory-Philadelphia

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space within the museum, will be renamed later this year in honor of Louise Taper.

The acquisition of this unique collection has been made possible through purchase by the Lincoln Library and Museum and a generous gift from the Taper family. The acquisition greatly enhances the museum's outstanding and far-ranging collection of documents and artifacts, and advances its position as the foremost center for the study of Lincoln's life, times and enduring relevance.

Among the highlights of the Taper collection are Lincoln's iconic stovepipe hat; the bloodstained gloves and handkerchief Lincoln carried on the night of his death; a vast number of artifacts, personal effects and unpublished correspondence belonging to Mary Todd Lincoln; and an 1824 Sum Book page, which contains the first known sample of Lincoln's writing.

Wax seal used by Abraham Lincoln during his presidency.

The Taper collection also includes extensive holdings relating to the Booth family, including assassin John Wilkes Booth and his brothers, Junius Brutus Booth Jr and Edwin Booth — who ironically saved the life of Lincoln's son, Robert, two years before Lincoln's assassination. These artifacts offer a multifaceted portrait of the Booths, the first theatrical family in US history, and go beyond the terrible act committed by John Wilkes Booth to show a family torn apart by the Civil War, like so many others.

The acquisition comes during a period of growing national fascination with Lincoln, one of the most beloved and most misunderstood figures in American history. Unlike other major collections of Lincoln artifacts, objects in the Taper collection were acquired based not only on their use for scholars but on their emotional and intellectual value, providing new insight into Lincoln's rise from poverty, his relationship with his wife and his despair over the death of two of his children.

Comprising an extraordinary number of high-quality artifacts and documents, the Taper collection is unparalleled in its breadth among all private Lincoln collections. The collection was carefully

built by Louise Taper, who first began to collect Lincoln artifacts after being deeply moved by a biographical novel about the marriage of the 16th president.

Leather gloves worn by Lincoln to Ford's Theater on the night of his assassination. Blood stains are visible at the cuffs.

Fascinated by Lincoln, "the human being, the family man," she took a part-time job with a manuscript dealer in Los Angeles, forgoing a salary in exchange for payment in historical documents. After a year, she had earned her first piece — a message written to Lincoln during the Civil War, with the president's signature at bottom. She has worked persistently since to acquire objects that not only documented Lincoln's presidential career, but which shed new light on his personal life, on his relationships with those closest to him and on the unique circumstances of life during the Civil War.

Her interest in Lincoln was furthered by her 1985 marriage to Barry Taper, a member of the prominent Los Angeles Taper family and son of philanthropist S. Mark Taper. The resulting collection, which reflects Taper's passionate investment in Lincoln's history, includes the largest known (after the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum collection) assortment of correspondence belonging to Mary Todd Lincoln, as well as the most extensive archive of materials from the Booth family. In addition to its value in scholarly study, the collection provides the most personal and nuanced portrait to date of Lincoln's rich and varied life.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum is at 212 North Sixth Street. For information, 217-558-8844 or www.alplm.org .

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